

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated June 7, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-41 are withdrawn in this application. Claims 42-54, 64, 65 and 67-74 are rejected to by the Examiner. Claim 64 has been amended, and claims 75-77 have been added. Claims 1-77 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 42, 44-48, 50, 52 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 2001-356353 to Satoshi (hereinafter "Satoshi"). Claims 43 and 67-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoshi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,129,804 to Gaynes (hereinafter "Gaynes"). Claims 49 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoshi as applied to claim 1 above, in view of Japanese Publication No. 09-061829 to Satoru et al (hereinafter "Satoru") (from 12/16/03 IDS).

Applicants amend claim 64 to correct a typographical error. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 42 is patentable over Satoshi, Gaynes, and JP09-061829 in that claim 42 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "lowering the upper chamber unit to seal the interior space from an external environment via the sealing means; evacuating the sealed interior space; moving the upper chamber unit and the upper stage to align the first and second substrates; contacting the first and second substrates with a sealant material; venting the sealed interior space to apply pressure to the first and second substrates contacted by the sealant material, wherein, after the venting, the first and substrates are bonded together." None of Satoshi, Gaynes, and Satoru, teach, disclose or suggest, either expressly or inherently, these features of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 42 and claims 43-74, which depend from claim 42, are also patentable over Satoshi, Gaynes, and Satoru, at least for this reason.

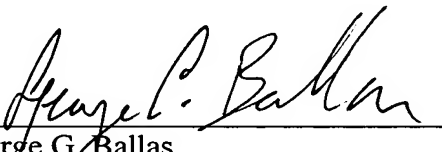
Applicants believe the foregoing arguments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
George G. Ballas
Registration No. 52,587
McKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 496-7500
Attorneys for Applicant